

## Facebook Friending

The article “Professors Prefer Face Time to Facebook” appeared in the student newspaper at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. The article examines how professors and students felt about using Facebook as a means of faculty-student communications. The student who wrote this article got mixed opinions when she interviewed students to ask whether they wanted to become Facebook friends with their professors. Two student comments included in the article were

“I think the younger the professor is, the more you can relate to them and the less awkward it would be if you were to become friends on Facebook. The older the professor, you just would have to wonder, ‘Why are they friending me?’”

And

“I think becoming friends with professors on Facebook is really awkward. I don’t want them being able to see into my personal life, and frankly, I am not really interested in what my professors do in their free time.”

Even if the students interviewed had expressed a consistent opinion, it would still be unreasonable to think this represented general student opinion on this issue because only four students were interviewed and it is not clear from the article how these students were selected.

In this activity, you will work with a partner to develop a plan to assess student opinion about being Facebook friends with teacher at KCHS.

1. Suppose you will select a sample of 50 students at your school to participate in a survey. Write one or more questions that you would ask each student in the sample.
2. Discuss with your shoulder partner whether you think it would be easy or difficult to obtain a simple random sample of 50 students at your school and to obtain the desired information from all the students selected for the sample. Write a summary of your discussion.
3. With your partner, decide how you might go about selecting a sample of 50 students from your school that reasonably could be considered representative of the population of interest even if it may not be a simple random sample. Write a brief description of your sampling plan, and point out the aspects of your plan that you think make it reasonable to argue that it will be representative.
4. Explain your plan with someone from another group. Ask them to critique your plan. Write a brief summary of the comments you received. Now reverse roles, and provide a critique of the plan devised by the other person.
5. Based on the feedback you received in step 4, would you modify your original sampling plan? If not, explain why this is not necessary. If so, describe how the plan would be modified.